

The Church Guardian,

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

IT IS NON-PARTIZAN.
IT IS INDEPENDENT.

It will be fearless and outspoken on all subjects, but its effort will always be to speak what it holds to be the truth in love.

Price only \$1.00 per Year.
The Cheapest Church Weekly in Canada.

Address THE CHURCH GUARDIAN,
Lock Drawer 29, Halifax, N.S.

A WORD OR TWO ABOUT OUR PAPER AND THE FREDERICTON CANON.

We have heard it more than once remarked by influential members of the Church, both clerical and lay, that Church papers have proved rather a hurt and hindrance than a help to the Church in these Provinces.

This feeling has, doubtless, originated in the fact that the Church newspaper, as a rule, has been brought into existence to subserve the interests of a party and not of the whole Church, and has, therefore, stimulated and kept alive a partizan spirit and feelings of animosity, instead of helping to allay discord, and proving itself a great power in building up the Church, and in advancing her material and spiritual interests. And because, unhappily, such has been the common fault in the past, both clergy and laity are naturally afraid to see a new work of the kind entered upon, lest feelings happily dormant and fast dying out may be again aroused and revived.

We could not expect, of course, altogether to escape this distrust, and yet,—we say it with our warmest thanks to all concerned,—notwithstanding many have expressed to us these fears, all, without exception, while doubtful about our pledges of neutrality and independence being maintained, have shown their hearty sympathy with our platform and professed principles by throwing no obstacles in our way, and, thereby, giving us the chance to win a name and position for our undertaking.

We have had recently an opportunity of proving ourselves honest and faithful to our principles, and of satisfying, we cannot doubt, the most timid and dubious, that it is possible to be, and that the CHURCH GUARDIAN really means to sustain itself as an independent journal.

We refer, of course, to the discussion over the Canon for a Coadjutor in Fredericton, which has been carried on in our columns for several weeks past.

It may have been thought by some that this question was taking up too much of our limited space, and so it was, but we had a motive for allowing the fullest freedom to correspondents. It was, as our readers must be aware, to prove unmistakably that, while the editors themselves held strong grounds—one of them being opposed to some features of the Canon, the other being strongly in its favor; and, in the case of the one, being ready, when the time came,

to make public his views, as the other would have done had he been so situated—yet that all sides had a right to, and should receive fair play at our hands, and be allowed a full and free hearing.

And what has been the result! Plainly this. Whereas pamphlets and counter pamphlets would have been scattered throughout the parishes, and the secular press brought into use to foment and widen the breach, until the most unhappy bitterness of feeling had been generated and made public, the whole discussion was kept out of the secular prints, and confined altogether to the columns of the GUARDIAN, and we think we can, therefore, justly claim for ourselves the credit of having prevented the recurrence of what has been proved in the past to be an unmitigated evil.

But, it may be said, there was much in the letters which appeared in your columns that had better have remained unsaid, much that was calculated to do harm. Perhaps so. We are not called upon just now to express an opinion. But what we feel like saying is this, You cannot stifle discussion; you cannot pooh pooh people's views which may happen to differ from your own. Better let them say their say, and air their views. Better let them see and feel that their side has had fair play equally with the other, and that every privilege has been afforded them to combat their opponents' arguments and errors. And having done this you have, to a large extent, satisfied them, or, at least, made them feel more willing to bow to the will of the majority, whatever that may be.

Such has been our experience through life, and such, we are confident, will be the result which will follow the Fredericton Coadjutor agitation.

THE GREAT NORTH-WEST.

ALMOST every paper we take up of late, whether English or Canadian, contains some reference to Manitoba and the North-West Territories of the Dominion.

And this is not surprising. For very many years this vast tract of country was in possession of the Hudson Bay Company, who, to protect their valuable fur interests, kept it "sealed up," so that the outside world knew nothing of its fertility, but imagined it to be a desolate region, fit home for the wild beast and the savage Indian.

Occasionally a more daring traveller than his fellows pierced its borders, and passing over the Rocky Mountains viewed the land beyond, and returning, brought back wonderful stories of its charming Flora, and its magnificent prairies.

But it was not until the Provinces of Canada became united, and the Hudson Bay monopoly had been removed, that emigrants thought of becoming settlers in so distant and unknown a region.

Indeed, ten years ago little was known of, and but few inhabited the country in and about Winnipeg, which to-day is a city of between 15,000 and 20,000 inhabitants.

A great change is rapidly coming over the whole land, and it has been calculated that during the past year fully 100,000 people have been added to the population.

With the tenant farmers in England suffering from the destruction of a large part of their crops by reason of the late disastrously wet season, and with the same

and other causes operating in Germany and France to encourage emigration, thousands upon thousands of respectable and hardy sons of the soil are turning their eyes towards America; and no field offers them fairer prospects than our Great North-West.

We may therefore safely conclude that, with the building of the Pacific Railway, and the more general opening up of the country, millions instead of thousands, will in a few years occupy this vast land, and that Canada, owning as she does three-fourths of the wheat producing area of the Continent, will become the granary of England, if not of the World.

But now, let us look at the religious side of this subject from a Church standpoint. Are we of the Church of England in this Dominion alive to our opportunities and responsibilities, and to the needs of the people in this growing territory; and are we preparing ourselves to take an active and leading part in winning this land for Christ our Lord and Master?

We have good cause to thank God and take courage, when we contemplate our work and the success which has so far attended it.

It may first be noted in this connection that the subdivision of dioceses, and the multiplication of new dioceses, have kept pace with the surprising growth of the country. Indeed, it may safely be affirmed that several of these dioceses have been formed in anticipation of the future enlargement and necessities of the work.

It seems truly a marvellous thing when we contemplate this growth of the Church, and realize that, west of the great Province of Ontario, a country very little known ten years ago, should now have within its borders seven Bishops of the Church of England, over seventy Priests and Deacons, and fully one hundred Catechists and Teachers.

These men minister not only to the English emigrant, but also they have been instrumental, under God, in training, civilizing and Christianizing the once savage Indian, and can point to results which have never been surpassed, as in the case of Mr. Duncan's work at Metlakatlah, and the Rev. Mr. Good's work at Lytton, where may be found over one thousand converts to Christianity, between two and three hundred of whom are communicants of the Church, representing a work unique in the history of Christian Missions.

With the forces already in the field, and with the powerful and able leaders which the Church possesses in the persons of the Bishops, and the faithful zeal so conspicuously displayed by the Missionaries, we may safely predict a leading place for the Church in the future history of this great and important country.

MISSIONS.

THE Rev. J. S. Cole, unless we mistake the disposition of many of our readers, has not only opened up a wide field for discussion, but has struck a chord which will produce a responsive note in many breasts.

There may be some, alas! too many, to whom the work of the Church of Christ is neither attractive nor momentous, and who care not to know her trials and her victories, her failures and her successes;

but among others, and they are, thank God, not a few, longing desires are felt, and earnest prayers ever rise for the missionary, whose work, it may be, is in the far-off countries of Africa or Asia, or in the wilds of our own North American forests, where the knowledge of the true God, and of His Son Jesus Christ, is causing the hearts of many to glow with the fire which the great love of the Saviour calls forth.

There was a time,—thank God we have now passed the period,—when it was thought derogatory to the dignity and self-respect of a clergyman or private Christian, for any feeling to be publicly exhibited or expressed, outside the pulpit, in the cause of religion; but a truer and higher interest than mere worldly philanthropy and charity towards our fellowman has raised men above this false idea, and now throughout the world the love of Christ in many hearts is constraining Christians to speak, as dying men to dying men, of their souls' great need, and of their everlasting state.

Alas! alas! that this love is not more developed and that it is not more general; for just as surely as we have been made in God's image, for His glory, so surely can true happiness alone be found in living to His service, and in following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Who would make us reach out towards our sinning, erring fellow-traveller to eternity, and proffer him the warmth of a christian heart and the fellowship of a christian brotherhood, to bring him to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, and into covenant relations with his God.

Who can, therefore, resist being interested in the earnestness of our correspondent's zeal for the Church, and for the work which he so warmly advocates! Whether a society such as he suggests be feasible or no we are not prepared to say, but of this we are certain, that much more should be done than is being done for the cause of Missions, and especially for our Missionary Diocese of Algoma.

RELIGIOUS VERSUS SECULAR EDUCATION.

OUR correspondent "Pedagogue," in referring to religious *versus* secular education in our public schools, touches upon a subject which no Christian and Churchman can lightly put aside.

We hold strong views upon the subject, and believe fully that unless some regard be paid to the religious training of the young during the week-days, our future men and women will have been made educated infidels and scientific doubters.

It certainly ought not to surprise any if boys and girls who have learnt by its absence to consider religious teaching unnecessary and inconvenient, should, in after life, be found to view life as a sphere to gratify selfish passions and to indulge carnal appetites; and to have adopted the barbarous motto: "Let us eat and drink for to-morrow we die."

We have not been able to insert the article from the Presbyterian Record, but shall have something more to the point to say shortly upon this very important topic; meanwhile, we commend our correspondent's letter to the serious attention and consideration of our readers.

THERE are two clergymen in Nova Scotia,—the Rev. Dr. White, of Shelburne, and the Rev. Canon Townshend, of Amherst,—who have each been over forty-five years in the ministry of the Church, the larger part of which has been spent in their present parishes.